From: Kelley, Craig
To: Itamar Turner-Trauring
Subject: RE: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement
Date: Monday, April 16, 2018 9:09:00 AM

Thanks, Itamar.

I look forward to learning more about this issue and Cambridge's potential role in making the situation better.

Enjoy the wedding.

Craig

From: Itamar Turner-Trauring [mailto:itamar@itamarst.org]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 9:03 AM
To: Kelley, Craig <ckelley@cambridgema.gov>
Subject: Re: Cambridge City Council and the Israel BDS movement

On Mon, Apr 16, 2018, at 7:28 AM, Kelley, Craig wrote:

> Thanks for your note, Itamar.
>
> I know next to nothing about this except that I am being bombarded with emails from people who seem to know more and I found a flyer at the Kennedy School last week. I am meeting with pro and con folks next week and the week after to learn more.
>
> Not having seen the resolution, which won't be officially posted until the Thursday before the Council meeting, I cannot say anything with surety except that I will not support an attempt to delegitimize Israel although I could be supportive of something that expresses concerns over some of Israel's policies without singling them out as the only nation in the world with problematic policies.
>
> I also think this is a lousy way to manipulate local government. If we want to take stances on good and bad in the world, and arguably we should, it only seems fair that we do so via some agreed upon criteria that does not single out specific entities for the sake of political expedience.
>
> But like I said, I actually have not seen anything for the Council yet so my opinion is not well informed.

Thanks for the thoughtful answer.

If you want a general criteria, and I do think that is worth having, that is what I would suggest: boycott companies that are actively involved in human rights violations.

I don't see any point in delegitimizing a country. Countries change as their laws and norms change.

The goal is delegitimizing certain *policies* and *actions*. I have family in Israel (going to fly there tonight, in fact, for my brother's wedding), and I would say fighting human rights violations is good for them too.

HP as an exemplar is directly involved in implementing massive violations of human rights:

- HP has implemented the technology for Israel's checkpoint system in the Palestinian territories, which limits people's freedom of movement. E.g. in some places Palestinian farmers have to go through military checkpoints to go from their house to their fields, all in service of illegal Israeli settlements. There are whole highways in the West Bank that I can drive on as an Israeli Jew, but Palestinians are banned from using.
- HP is implementing the national ID system within Israel, whose "nationality" aspect is the bureaucratic tool used to implement policies like separate Jewish and Arab school systems, legal impossibility for Jews to marry non-Jews, etc.. If I lived there it would violate my human rights (not as bad as what Palestinians go through, obviously, but it affects everyone.)

It's worth noting that there are large numbers of Israeli Jews who are opposed to these policies: they're against the occupation of the Palestinians, and they want equal rights for Israeli Jews and Israeli Arab citizens. They probably wouldn't actively support boycotting HP, it's true, but in practice if you listen to what they say they're arguing for it.

For example, my sister-in-law is the executive director of a left-wing Zionist think tank in Israel, Molad. They argue that only way to stop BDS movement is to stop the occupation - http://www.molad.org/en/articles/KLP-Divestment:

> On 9 June 2015, Israel's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) held a closed conference on the need to face the wave of boycotts threatening the country. **Behind closed doors, the participants all admitted that the only solution is to reach an agreement enabling the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.**

So I take that as argument that this is an effective policy to help Israel do the right thing.

To summarize:

- A good generic policy is "boycott companies that implement human right violations, regardless of country."
- HP meets that criteria.
- This policy is likely effective.

Thanks,

-Itamar